

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saltich (U.S. 3,668,481) in view of Chang et al. (U.S. 6,404,033 B1). Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saltich in view of Chang et al. as applied to claim 13, and further in view of Blanchard (U.S. 6,621,107 B2). Claims 7 and 9-12 are allowable over the references of record. Claims 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the drawings as originally filed.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 14 and has amended claims 7, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16 of this application. Claims 7, 9, 10, 13 and 16 have been amended to obviate the objections set forth in the outstanding Office Action. It is believed that the amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 7 and 9-12 are allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 14-16 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 13 comprises a combination of original claims 13 and 14, thus redrafting claim 14 in independent form. Amended claims 15 and 16 and original claims 17 and 18 all depend from amended claim 13. In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claim 14, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.

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Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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